(d) whether the order is being rescinded, as assured in the House on 15.07.2004; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) A tripartite meeting was held on 21st June, 2006 to discuss the amendment to the Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946. The representatives of the State Governments were not invited for the meeting. However, consultations with the State Governments are going on. No consensus could be arrived at in the meeting. The matter is still under consideration.

Job security and welfare of the agricultural labour

969. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for enacting a Central legislation to ensure job security and welfare of the agricultural labour in the country is pending for a long time; and

(b) if so, at what stage is this proposal and reason for delay in enactment of such a Central Legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) The proposal of enactment of a comprehensive legislation had been under consideration of the Government for a long time. However, due to lack of consensus amongst the State Governments on the proposed legislation, the matter could not be processed further.

Categorised wage rate scheme

970. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current national floor level minimum wages for agricultural labourers for unskilled, skilled, semi-skilled and highly skilled categories, separately;

(b) whether all the State Governments adhering to these revised rates of wages and have introduced the categorized wage rate scheme;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and the efforts made by the Centre to persuade non-adhering States/UT to follow the revised rates;

(d) whether the Union Government has made any survey to assess the number of labourers covered under the categorized rates of wages; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The National Floor Level Minimum Wage, which is applicable to all scheduled employments including agricultural labourers, presently stands at Rs. 66/- per day. It is not prescribed category-wise. As it is a non-statutory measure, the State Governments are persuaded by writing letters and personal interaction to fix the minimum wages in all scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction to be at least at par with the National Floor Level Minimum Wage. The State Governments, by and large, follow the advice of the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Investments by EPF Organisation

971. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investments made by the EPF Organisation during the last one year and the returns earned therefrom;

(b) whether the EPF Organisation had appointed a consultant to suggest investment options to EPF;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendation given by the consultant;

(d) whether Government are considering the exposure of EPF funds in equities; and

(e) if so, by when, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The total amount of investment made by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation during the last financial year (*i.e.* FY-2005-06) in all the three schemes is Rs. 20,648.58 Crores. The details of the same are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

The total return earned for the financial year 2005-06 on the total corpus under the three schemes for the relevant year is as under: